by the Ministry of Finance to the Government of Sikkim during the last three years is as under :

Years	Amount (Rs. crore)
1993-94	10.99
1994-95	15.98
1995-96	17.59

(b) and (c). As these comprise block loans granted under Central Assistance and share of loans against small savings collections, they are not earmarked for specific purposes.

Goods Seized by Customs Authority

2130. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons and cooperative societies in Delhi have been permitted to sell confiscated goods seized by officials of Customs Department;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such persons and Societies with formalities prescribed for seeking such permission;

(c) whether margins of profit has been fixed for sale of confiscated goods to customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Consumer goods seized by Delhi Customs are being sold on becoming ripe for disposal to NCCF. The address of NCCF is as follows:

National Consumer Cooperative Federation of India Limited, Deepali Building, 6th Floor, 92, Nehru Place, New Delhi.

M/s. NCCF are given a discount of 14.5% on the price fixed for the goods.

Foreign Debt Liability

2131. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in "the Hindustan Times" dated November 21, 1996 under the caption "Finance Ministry blamed for export slowdown" in the context of foreign debt liability of U.S. Dollars 100 billion on the Indian Government which have to be paid in foreign exchange;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy to develop close coordination between the concerned ministries to boost the exports on war footing; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) the news item referred to does not reflect the factual position since the Finance Ministry has not been blamed as mentioned therein.

The total external debt outstanding of the country has declined from US$ 99.04 billion as on March 31, 1995 to US$ 92.66 billion for the period ending March, 31,1996. Moreover the debt service ratio has also declined from the peak of 35.25% during 1990-91 to a more manageable level of 25.54% during 1995-96.

(b) and (c). Export promotion is a continuous process. This includes inter alia, close inter-action with the concerned Ministries/Departments so as to provide the congenial environment for sustained increase in exports.

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO

2132. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the national and international trade fairs sponsored, organised and hosted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation during 1995-96;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the establishment and maintenance of the Pragati Maidan during 1995-96;

(c) the total income likely to be generated by ITPO by way of organising the trade fairs during the current year.

(d) whether the ITPO has leased out the space permanently for non-promotional purposes to various parties at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details of the area with its units rent, party-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During 1995-96 ITPO held 17 exhibitions in India which are Consumexh, Sajavat, Delhi Book Fairs, Intl. Shoe Fair, Shoe Comp, Prakash India, India International Trade and Gramawas '95 Fair, International Security Exhn., Tex-India, National Children Fair, SAARC Fair, Print Pack India, AHARA'96, National Consumex Fair, India International Leather Fair, Tex-styles India, and International Leather Goods Fair.

23 Fairs were held by third parties. They are : 1st Delhi Tourism and Travel Show, CYMO India '95, Indian Garment Fair '95, BREW BEV India '95, Korea Trade Show'95, Broadcast, Cable and Satellite, India Intl. Power Generation and Energy Exhibition and Congress, Oil and Gas Petrochem Show and Congress, 1st India Built Intl. Building Construction Material Show'95, Communication India'95, IT ASIA'95, PAPEREX'95,

INTEX'95, GARTEX'95, IMPACT'96, Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, World Book Fair'96 WISITEX'96, TRADEX Exhb., India Intech Mart, Auto Expo'96, Carpet Fair '96, Glass Processing and Glazing, Ukraine in India, and CYMO INDIA'96.

Similarly, ITPO participated in 19 general foreign fairs, 16 specialised commodity events and 3 Indian exhibitions. They are : Nantes International Fair, Consumer Expo Kazakhstan, Overseas Import Fair 'Partners for Progress' Berlin, International Modern living Exhibition, Tel-Aviv, Damascus International Fair, Damascus, Expohogar-International Gift and Housewares Show, Barcelona, Zagreb International Autumn Fair, Nairobi International Show, Tehran International Fairs, Saitex'95, South Africa, World Tech'95 Thailand? Quang Trung International Fair, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia's International Trade Fair, Jaddah, Konsumexpo'96, Moscow, Ghana International Trade Fair, Annual Spring Fair, Basel, Expocomer International Fair, Panama, Kuwait International Fair, Overseas, Import Fair, Berlin, International Food and Drink Exhibition, London, Australia's International Engineering Exhibition, PUMPS and SYSTEMS ASEAN'95, Jakarta, National Hardware Show, Chicago Pret-A-Porter Fair, Paris, International Exhibition of Bicycles and Motorcycles, Italy, International Leather Week, Paris, Chem Asia'95 Singapore, ANUGA Food Fair, Germany, Interkama Dusseldoff, Gifts and Fashion Fair Muscat, Domotex Fair, Hannover, Heimtextile Fair 96 Paris, International Hardware Fair'96 Germany, TCF International'96, Australia, Indian Exhibition 1995 Lusaka, Indian Exhibition 1995, Tashkent and Indian Exhibition 1996, Jakarta.

(b) An expenditure amounting to Rs. 18.33 crores has been incurred by ITPO on the establishment and maintenance of Pragati Maidan Complex during 1995-96.

(c) A total income to the tune of Rs. 56.64 crores is likely to be generated by ITPO through organisation of trade fairs during the current year.

(d) and (e). ITPO has not leased out any space on long-term basis for non-promotional purposes.

[Translation]

Cases Pending in District Courts of U.P.

2133 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Civil Criminal Dowry cases and most of the cases concerned with the land of rural society are under consideration for several years in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the judiciary system has become inactive;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any concrete step to bring improvement in the judicial procedure in Mathura district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As per available information, as on 31.3.1995, 43813 cases were pending in all the Civil and Criminal Courts of Mathura District.

(b) No, Sir. The pendency of cases is due to various complex factors including inadequate Courts, increased institution and also due to some cases stayed by the higher Courts.

(c) to (e). Administration of Justice in the District/Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of concerned High Courts/State Governments. In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in courts and to find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices was held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for the speedy disposal of cases in the Courts/Tribunals. This resolution has been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. The Administration of Justice has been made a plan item with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases in Courts.

Members of BIFR

2134. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Chairmen and Members, present and former, of the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction since its constitution;

(b) the number out of them who possessed direct hand-on experience to manage industries and financial institutions;

(c) the number of those who are retired IAS officers; and

(d) the number of cases referred to BIFR since its inception and how many of them have been settled for private and public sector companies, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total number of Chairman and Members (present and former) of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since its inception is 22 (3 Chairmen and 19 Members).